

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6754

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E O 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, IV

SUBJECT: OFFICIALS STUDY LOCAL PROBLEMS

1. SOME 2000 GOVERNMENT AND PARTY OFFICIALS BEGAN SERIES OF MEETINGS JANUARY 14 AT PRESIDENTIAL PALACE WHICH WILL CONTINUE THROUGH 19TH. CALLED SUDDENLY BY THE PRESIDENT, THE COUNTRY'S IVORIAN CADRES ARE TO SPEND THE WEEK DISCUSSING ANY DOMESTIC PROBLEMS THEY WISH TO ADDRESS.
  2. IN OPENING REMARKS, HOUPHOUET NOTED THE UNCERTAINTIES OF 1974: MIDEAST CRISIS AND GENEVA NEGOTIATIONS, ENERGY CRISIS AND POSSIBLE CATASTROPHIC CONSEQUENCES FOR LDCS. HE THEN TACKLED DOMESTIC SCENE, SAYING WEEK'S DISCUSSIONS WOULD FOCUS JUST ON LOCAL PROBLEMS. HOUPHOUET CRITICIZED LAXITY OF CERTAIN CIVIL SERVANTS, CALLING FOR IMPROVED MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS WITH GREATER EFFICIENCY AND HONESTY.
  3. FRATERNITE-MATIN PROVIDED FURTHER DETAILS ON WEEK'S PROGRAM. PARTICIPANTS ARE TO FOCUS ON WHAT IS NOT GOING RIGHT IN THE COUNTRY AND RECOMMEND WAYS TO CORRECT OR IMPROVE IT. EACH AFTER-NOON A GROUP OF CADRE WILL MEET, PRESENTING THEIR GRIPEs AND PROPOSALS THE FOLLOWING MORNING TO THE PLENARY SESSION. THUS, THE PREFETS AND SOUS-PREFETS MET YESTERDAY AFTERNOON AND PRESENTED THEIR IDEAS THIS MORNING. SERVICE CHIEFS ARE MEETING THIS AFTERNOON. AT THE END OF IT ALL RESOLUTIONS OF SUBSTANCE WILL
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BE ADOPTED, FOLLOWING WHICH COMMITTEES WILL BE ESTABLISHED TO

PROPOSE WHAT SHOULD BE DONE TO CARRY THEM OUT.

4. THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS ARE SOMEWHAT REMINISCENT OF THE SERIES OF DIALOGUES CONDUCTED IN 1969, EXCEPT THAT THIS TIME, AS ONE CADRE POINTED OUT, THEY INVOLVE ONLY THE OFFICIALS WHO ARE MOST IN CONTACT WITH THE REALITIES OF THE COUNTRY RATHER THAN STUDENTS, ETC. THUS, HE FELT THIS WEEK WILL BE MORE PRODUCTIVE. THE EMBASSY IS UNCERTAIN HOW TO EXPLAIN THE SUDDENNESS WITH WHICH THE MEETINGS WERE CALLED, BUT WE WONDER IF HOUPHOUET HAS PERHAPS JUST DECIDED THE TIME HAS COME TO TURN AWAY FROM THE MORE GLAMOROUS FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND LOOK AT THE COUNTRY'S DOMESTIC SITUATION. INDEED THE PRESIDENT HAS ANNOUNCED THAT HE IS PLANNING A SERIES OF TRIPS AROUND THE COUNTRY THIS YEAR. THIS WEEK'S INITIATIVE SEEMS TO BE WELL RECEIVED, ALTHOUGH ONE OFFICIAL--COMMENTING ON HOUPHOUET'S REMARK THAT EVERYTHING IS FAIR GAME FOR DISCUSSION AND NO ONE SHOULD HESITATE TO SAY WHATEVER HE PLEASES--NOTED THERE IS SOME FEAR AMONG PARTICIPANTS THAT IF THEY SPEAK TOO OPENLY, THEIR WORDS COULD COME BACK TO HAUNT THEM AT SOME LATER DATE IF EVER THERE ARE QUESTIONS ABOUT A PERSON'S LOYALTY AND THE LIKE.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MEETINGS, PEACE TALKS, PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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